

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 RSR-01 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 IO-03 DPW-01 L-03 PM-03

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4028

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS

SUBJECT: MR 3 WEEKLY SITREP-JUNE 24-30, 1973

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON FROM BIEN HOA JUNE 30

REPEATED TO YOU

QUOTE BIEN HOA 0239

1. MILITARY ACTIVITY IN MR 3 CONTINUED TO DECLINE IN SECOND WEEK OF CEASE-FIRE II, WITH MR 3 TOC REPORTING ONLY 73 INCIDENTS IN WEEK ENDING 0800 JUNE 29, COMPARED WITH 114 IN PREVIOUS WEEK AND 155 AND 144 IN TWO WEEKS BEFORE JUNE 15 DEADLINE. MOST CLASHES REPORTED WERE LIGHT SQUAD-SIZE GROUND CONTACTS OR MINOR ATTACKS BY FIRE; THERE WERE ONLY NINE SHELLINGS OF OVER 20 ROUNDS. RVN LOST 17 RVNAF KILLED, 70 WOUNDED (MOSTLY FROM ARTILLERY OR MORTAR FIRE OR ACCIDENTAL MININGS), FOUR MISSING, NINE CIVILIANS WOUNDED BY MINES, TWO CIVILIANS REPORTED KIDNAPPED, AND ONE CIVILIAN ASSASSINATED. COMMUNISTS LOST 48 KIA, THREE CAPTURED, 16 INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS, AND EIGHT RALLIERS.

2. RVNAF COMMANDERS AT VARIOUS LEVELS CONCEDED TO CONGEN AND CONSULS DURING WEEK THAT IT APPEARS THAT COMMUNISTS ARE AT PRESENT

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BASICALLY RESPECTING CEASE-FIRE. BUT THESE COMMANDERS REMAIN

CONVINCED THAT COMMUNISTS HAVE NOT ABANDONED THEIR LONG-TERM AIM OF CONQUEST OF SVN, PROBABLY BY MILITARY MEANS.

3. FOR APPARENT PURPOSE OF STRENGTHENING GVN'S HAND IN COMING TPJMC NEGOTIATIONS ON ZONES OF CONTROL AND CORRIDORS, AS WELL AS TO IMPROVE SECURITY GENERALLY, GVN THIS WEEK CONDUCTED SEVERAL OPERATIONS IN AREAS WHICH THEY WOULD CONTEND THEY ALREADY CONTROL, BUT WHICH PRG MAY ALSO CLAIM AND WHICH INDEPENDENT OBSERVERS WOULD CHARACTERIZE AS CONTESTED. TWO RANGER BATTALIONS ATTEMPTED TO CLEAR NATIONAL HIGHWAY 14 BETWEEN DONG XOAI AND JUNCTION WITH ROUTE 311 IN PHUOC LONG PROVINCE. ELEMENTS OF 18TH DIVISION AND LONG KHANH AND PHUOC TUY RF PREPARED TO SWEEP INTERPROVINCIAL ROUTE 2 NEAR BORDER OF TWO PROVINCES. SHARP FIGHTING IN HIEU THIEN DISTRICT, TAY NINH, ON AND AFTER JUNE 22 PRODUCED PRG AND GVN COUNTERCHARGES OF CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS. THERE WAS ALSO SOME FIGHTING, NOT FULLY REPORTED IN MR 3 TOC LOG, IN TRANG BANG DISTRICT OF HAU NGHIA, AND DUC HOA DISTRICT CHIEF CAPTURED LARGE STORES OF COMMUNIST ARMAMENTS. GIA DINH PROVINCE CHIEF HAD HIS RF AND A RANGER BATTALION "CLEARING WASTE-LAND TO OPEN AREAS FOR FARMING" IN RELATIVELY INSECURE AREAS ALONG TRADITIONAL COMMUNIST INFILTRATION ROUTES, DISCOVERING COMMUNIST BUNKERS AND CACHES AND TRIGGERING SOME MINES.

4. ICCS V CANDELS LURCHED UNSTEADILY TOWARD COMPLETION OF THEIR DUTIES, NOW SCHEDULED FOR JULY 23. CANDEL FLOORED POLDEL WITH ONE PUNCH IN LATE NIGHT BIEN HOA CLUB BARROOM PUNCHUP. HUNGDEL LTC MENRATH COMPLAINED THAT CANDELS HAD KEPT HIM AWAKE JUNE 25-26 WITH ALL-NIGHT REVELRY AT BIEN HOA CLUB. GUNG-HO CANDEL V CHIEF COL. MORROW GOT INTO TROUBLE BRIEFLY WITH HIS SUPERIORS IN SAIGON AND OTTAWA OVER CBS SHOWING OF CBS TAPING OF HIS UNILATERAL INTERVIEW OF NVA POW INFILTRATOR. EVEN MORE GUNG-HO XUAN LOC CANDEL CHIEF CPT PATTEN, WHO WITH HIS DEPUTY CPT. THOMPSON HAD APPARENTLY SET UP A MEETING WITH LOCAL PRG IN RUBBER PLANTATION OUTSIDE XUAN LOC AFTERNOON JUNE 28, DID NOT RETURN TO XUAN LOC THAT EVENING, AND THE TWO ARE STILL BEING HELD BY PRG WHILE NEGOTIATIONS FOR THEIR RELEASE PROCEED AT SAIGON LEVEL.

5. ICCS V FORWARDED 2-2 SPLIT VIEWS TO SAIGON JUNE 25 ON ALLEGED PRG FIRING ON ICCS HELICOPTER OVER NATIONAL HIGHWAY 13 ON ROAD TO AN LOC JUNE 16. BUT REGULAR ICCS HELICOPTER FLIGHTS EVERY OTHER DAY BETWEEN BIEN HOA AND AN LOC BEGAN JUNE 25, PRESUMABLY WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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BETTER PRG SECURITY GUARANTEES. IN BINH TUY JUNE 26, AN ICCS REGION IV HELICOPTER WAS FIRED ON WHILE ON THE GROUND DURING AN INVESTIGATION, ALTHOUGH THE ROUNDS DID NOT LAND CLOSE ENOUGH TO CAUSE CASUALTIES OR DAMAGEO. SIGNED WALKINSHAW UNQUOTE WHITEHOUSE

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